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OF
ORANGE

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The House of Orange.

THE house of Orange had its origin in Germany, and its original name was Nassau. It could boast of having given an Emperor to Germany at the close of the 12th century.

In the 14th century an ancestor of the family possessed two provinces in the Low Countries.

At the opening of the 16th century another ancestor was appointed Governor-General of the Netherlands.

Later on, one of the family, Henry by name, was chosen by the great Emperor Charles the Fifth to place the diadem of the Cæsars on his head. This was an acknowledgment on the part of the Emperor that the bringing about of that happy event was largely due to Henry's zeal and influence. It was this same Henry of Nassau who created such a favourable impression upon the French king that he offered him the hand of Claudia, sister of Philibert Chelon, the Prince of Orange. Hence it was that the name of Orange became joined to that of Nassau.

Henry's brother, William, early and fearlessly adopted the creed of Protestantism in the teeth of a tyranny, the most profligate

and formidable that ever crushed the mind of man, and it was his son, the great William of Nassau, popularly known as

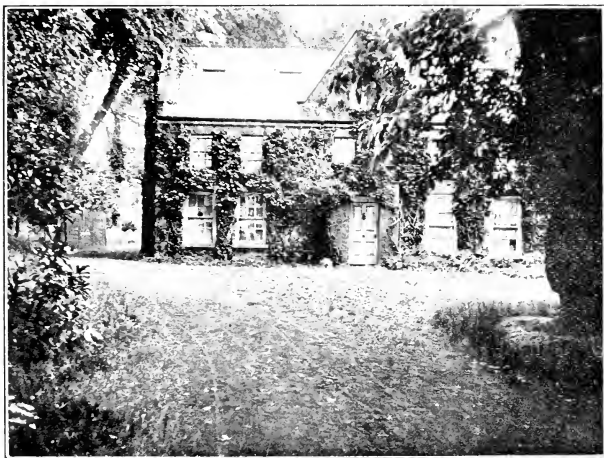
WILLIAM THE SILENT,

who inherited from the childless son of Henry and Claudia the Princedom of Chalons and Orange.

In this century it was that the terrible power of Philip II., King of Spain, made all other sovereignties kick the beam, and, as the Netherlands were the country of freedom, Philip's first exploit was to overthrow their privileges. William the Silent was perhaps the only man living who could have stood up to such a formidable foe with any chance of success. He had just the experience best suited for such a task. He had been taken, when quite a youth, into the confidence of the Emperor Charles the Fifth; he had been educated by him in statesmanship and trained by him to military command; and all to such good effect that when only twenty-two years of age he had been placed at the head of all the troops in the Netherlands, and had been given the title of Generalissimo.

Not in the whole wide range of the world's history can one read of a life of nobler achievement under the most appalling conditions, of vaster patience and self-restraint, of more unquenchable courage. Never did man by his life give witness more clearly to the belief that despair is the heaviest crime that can be committed in a righteous cause. Even after the establishment of the Inquisition in the Netherlands in 1566, even when his eldest son William was torn from him and carried off to Spain to be kept there as a hostage from his 13th till his 45th year, the faith of this marvellous man

never faltered. Alva might boast that in the six years of his government he had put 18,000 citizens to death on the scaffold, but Alva's knock-out blow never reached its billet. "Have they taken *Silence*?" said Cardinal Granville anxiously when another batch of prisoners was brought in. "No," was the reply. "Well, then," said he, "if that fish has escaped the net, Alva's draught is worth nothing."



House in Cranmore, in which the Monarch rested.

And worth nothing it proved to be, for only a short time elapsed before *Silence* secured the sovereignty of Holland and Zealand and the lordship of Friesland, with the title of Stadtholder.

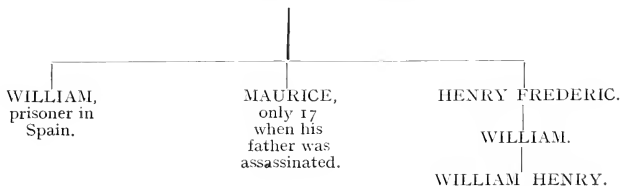
So much did William the Silent become an object of hatred to the Spaniards that 5,000 golden crowns were offered for his life.

The bribe was big enough. Jareguay, his would-be assassin, was first confessed by a Jesuit priest, and then promised pardon and paradise. In Jareguay's pocket was found a Jesuit catechism with a prayer to the angel Gabriel imploring his intercession with the Almighty and the Virgin Mary to speed him in the murder.

William was to have a new, if brief, lease of life. He completely recovered through the kind offices of a succession of persons, who for nine days stopped the bleeding of the pistol wound in the only way possible, namely, by pressing their thumbs upon it night and day.

It was just when William was awaiting his coronation as Sovereign of the United Provinces that he was assassinated. After the perpetration of the crime and the arrest of the prisoner the assassin bewailed his own wickedness and charged the Jesuits of Dole as the instigators of the murder. William the Silent had four sons and eight daughters. With only three of these sons are we presently concerned.

WILLIAM THE SILENT.



MAURICE,

the second son of Silence, was the next representative of the House of Nassau. It was he who drove the Duke of Parma with his besieging army from the walls of Bergen-op-Zoom—that army which the Invincible Armada was to have landed on the shores of



Tree in Cranmore, Malone, to which William III's horse was tied while he was resting on his way to the Boyne.

England. Maurice carried on twenty years of successful warfare with the Spanish, captured forty cities, overthrew the Spanish armies in three general encounters, and, by a long series of naval triumphs, placed the United States of Holland in the front rank of maritime powers. Maurice never married, and was succeeded by his brother

HENRY FREDERIC,

the third son of the great William. To such a degree did he inherit the genius and success of his family that the States-General declared the Stadtholderate to be thenceforth hereditary in his house, and the decree was solemnly presented in a gold box to his only son

WILLIAM,

then an infant of three years old.

In 1641 William married the Princess Mary, the eldest daughter of our Charles the First. But he died in his twenty-fourth year, and bequeathed his dignities to a son,

WILLIAM HENRY

(born November 4th, 1650), who was to realise on a larger scale the struggles and the successes of his illustrious race, to fight the battle of civil liberty on the Continent, to accomplish the still loftier supremacy of true religion in England. William III. married Mary, the elder daughter of Charles the Second, and died childless. He was the last of the direct line of the great Prince of Orange, and his States were bequeathed to Prince Frison of Nassau, his cousin, and Stadtholder of Friesland.

PHONE 1691.

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